

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MILI, PFOR

SUBJ: DEPLETED URANIUM AMMUNITION

1. THE FOLLOWING UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF A NEWS ITEM REPEATED
FROM AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE (AFP) IN THE NATO PRESS SERVICE'S
"LATEST NEWS" (A CLIPPING SERVICE) OF 22 OCTOBER 75 IS
FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

NEW TYPE SHELL

BRUSSELLES:

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RAISED AT NATO THE QUESTION OF
ADOPTION BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE OF A NEW
TYPE OF ANTI-TANK SHELL CAPABLE OF USING A URANIUM RESIDUE AS
EXPLOSIVE, IT WAS INDICATED TUESDAY IN ATLANTIC CIRCLES IN
BRUSSELS. AT PRESENT, IT IS SAID, THREE GUNS, A BRITISH, AN
AMERICAN AND A GERMAN ARE IN COMPETITION TO EQUIP THE FUTURE
ATLANTIC TANK ENVISAGED FOR THE 1980S. NATO HAS NOT YET BEEN
INFORMED OF THE CHOICE OF CANNON WHICH IT WOULD CARRY. UNQUOTE.

2. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) IS USED
BECAUSE OF ITS MASS-ENERGY PENETRATION PROPERTIES;
THAT IT IS NOT IN ITSELF EXPLOSIVE; AND THAT IT IS ONLY
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MILDLY RADIOACTIVE (ABOUT AS MUCH RADIOACTIVITY AS A
THEATER EXIT SIGN). CONSIDERING THE SENSITIVITY OF MANY NATO
NATIONS TO NUCLEAR MATTERS IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE AFP ITEM
OR SIMILAR ARTICLES COULD PRECIPITATE PRESS AND OTHER

QUESTIONS OR ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION. ACTION REQUESTED:
ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPREICATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE,
INCLUDING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE. END ACTION REQUESTED.
BRUCE

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